

TSWAN Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2010
Auburn, WA

ATTENDANCE: Danny Joe Stensgar, Pete Palmer, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Lewis Younger, *Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*; Alexander Panamaroff, *Larsen Bay*; Steve Pendleton, Marge Sawyer, *Makah Nation*; Eddy Chu, *Muckleshoot Tribe*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Angie Christiansen, *Old Harbor*; Virginia Monsisco, *Shoshone-Bannock*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Derald Ortloff, *Yakama Nation*; Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

Absent Tribes: *AVCP; Chehalis; Cheesh-Na; Chignik; Coeur d'Alene; Kalispel; Kootenai; Levelock Village; Newhalen Village; Nooksack; Nunakauyarmiut; Native Village of Eklutna; Native Village of Port Lions; Native Village of Ouzinkie; Native Village of Venetie; Quinault Indian Nation; Confederated Tribes of the Siletz; Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak; Tulalip Tribe; Umatilla Tribes; Warm Springs Tribes.*

Guests in Attendance: Dean Adams, *Burns-Paiute Tribe*; Joaquin Bustamante, Don Hurst, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Curtis Stanley, *Nisqually Tribe*; Bridget Ray, Sheena Kaas, *Squaxin Island Tribe*; Al LaTourette, *EPA-SEE*.

Kami Snowden, Executive Director of TSWAN welcomed, the members present thanked our host, Eddy Chu and the Muckleshoot Tribe, and made some corrections on the agenda. Eddy Chu had arranged for a tour bus to take us to see the Muckleshoot Solid Waste Collection Facilities after the lunch break.

Snowden said she is looking into ways to update and renew the TSWAN webpage, making it more interactive and asked for ideas. Several suggestions were made and if TSWAN can secure the funding, that is one of the items that she would like to see.

Snowden also announced a program to be presented by Anne Bailey on mercury and explained Anne's extensive background with Hanford and their mercury clean-up program. Snowden says that Jim Zokan of EPA is encouraging TSWAN to put together a clean-up program training. Anne did a power point of the hazards of mercury and the clean-up process in a household setting. She discussed the new low energy use light bulbs, and explained that they are a mercury hazard if broken and how to go about cleaning them up. She also talked about the proper methods of recycling them.

Mercury clean-up should be done with an eyedropper, turkey baster or empty syringe to lift the liquid. Then place it in a sealable glass container and a secondary container. You may also use tape to lift it, if it will stick. Work from the outside to the inside of the spill. Use something like playing cards to push the drops together, and use a light when finished to see if you see anymore shining mercury. When it is all collected, sprinkle sulfur powder on the area. If it does not turn brown, then you have it all picked up.

Bailey also suggested that solid waste facilities should include a mercury recycling program. She also recommended talking with your purchasing departments in advance to research the hazardous of the products of they purchase and make choices at the front-end of the process. Another thing she recommends for every home and department is a mercury clean-up kit which contains the items she mentioned.

At the last TSWAN meeting in September, members filled out a survey on the types of training they would like to see TSWAN offer and listed them in order of priority. Household Hazardous Waste training and how to stage a HHW event were two of the top priorities. Snowden announced that the Umatilla Tribe has the only Household Hazardous Waste Facility in their region, and they are willing to host a tour, training and TSWAN meeting, however, because of the expansion they are currently going through, it will have to wait until April. This is a month later than the usual quarterly meeting, but she thought worth the wait. She said Bonnie Burke is trying to expand their service to the local county and city to help make it more sustainable. Snowden suggested we do this event on a Friday and Saturday and the group had no objections.

Transfer Station Operations training ranked the highest priority of members, according to the survey, so Snowden will work that training into a funding request. The training could possibly be worked into an “employee manual” for tribes.

Snowden talked about a meeting with EPA that she and Elaine Welk attended on Monday. At this meeting, Ted Jacobsen of Alaska talked about the Rural Alaska Landfill Operations training (RALO) program that he has been teaching throughout rural Alaska and how it may be possible to modify this training for rural tribes in the lower part of region 10 for the Transfer Station Operations training. There is no way to make it a certification; however the attendees get a “certification of attendance.”

Snowden also obtained an electronic copy of an “auditing tool” to audit in place programs available from EPA. Snowden will be sending out copies of this tool for those who wish to have it, and it will remain available through the TSWAN library.

Also discussed at the meeting with EPA was their hope for a training program they could offer that would be very similar to the TSWAN Waste Management 101 Training offered in May, 2010. They have a similar program available for tribes online in a virtual classroom.

Snowden talked about the Green Building Conference that TSWAN is offering in conjunction with Cindy Spiry of the Snoqualmie Nation and University of Washington next August in the Seattle area.

Snowden brought up the new requirements from the GAP program for consortiums that specifies that new tribal resolutions have to be submitted with each grant that are specific to that grant period, rather than just being able to send copies of the tribal resolutions already on file. This is very troubling and a real challenge to TSWAN since we already have rules and responsibility policies in place for tribes and delegates to sign onto. Derald Ortloff of the Yakama Nation suggested that Kami contact a group that is already questioning why the EPA seems to not be working with the tribes, and gave her a contact. He also suggested that each member tribe send in letters, emails and make calls asking to have this overturned. Bridget Ray of the Squaxin Island Tribe said it could be a validation of TSWAN since IGAP is about capacity building, and renewals could show how much. Al LaTourette of EPA said he believes it is connected to an Inspector General Report which has a drive for “accountability” coming from the top down.

The meeting adjourned for lunch and agreed where to meet for the bus tour of the Muckleshoot Solid Waste Facilities.

Eddy Chu of the Muckleshoot Tribe’s Public Works Division, and our host for the TSWAN meeting. After driving to the main Public Works Office, we were given copies of the flyer mailed to Muckleshoot members regarding the Solid Waste Collection Program. It outlines the policies regarding everything about the program from how to request a dumpster; codes on property site clean-up and assistance available; demolition projects and assistance available; outlines the items which may be brought to the dumpsites and includes a map of the site so that members will know where to go to dispose of their items.

The reservation is six square miles, but they are not all continuous. There are approximately 2400 members in 243 homes. They also service their school which has 350 students, as well as the 45 tribal government buildings and several churches. Their items are disposed of through King County, with an annual dumping fee of approximately \$340,000. Chu provided information on the equipment they use, the layout of their facilities, the costs they pay for each item through various waste vendors. He said their E-waste is handled by vendors who have documented preferred standards with Basal Action Network (BAN) and stays mostly within the state of Washington. They have facilities to store the E-waste indoors so it is not water damaged and therefore brings the highest price. At this time, none of their vendors are native run.

After driving through the dump site facility, Eddy took the tour bus around some of the tribal offices and the new school on the way back to the meeting space at the Muckleshoot Casino in Auburn.

TRIBAL UPDATES

Lewis Younger - Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

Younger reported that the Cedar Meeting House which we toured in June of 2009 is now complete and meets all of the standards of the counties they must deal with, yet is still true to the native meeting space they required. He said they have also finished their new Fire Station.

John Wheaton – Nez Perce Tribe

Wheaton said that they have had some organizational changes with a new Utilities Supervisor. Each department now has the ability to be more hands on with their own grants and departments. He is now manager of the Natural Resources Department and has been busy rallying the troops and finding ways to improve relationships with the different agencies they deal with.

Their solid waste status is the same as before, with the city now running the site and only opening it twice a month. He said they are working with USDA and hope to get funding by March to start the process of opening a transfer center. One bright side to the residence only having limited access to the dump site twice a month has been that they are now more willing to pay fees to have better access. He said they put out a survey and got a good number of responses by offering 3 bins to those who completed it. They have had a 40 yard trailer, modified for recycling, donated to their program and are now able to collect cans, tin, paper, etc. He also said they are now able to take their tribal assets off the site the city now uses and will be able to use them to set up their own facilities.

Dean Adams - Burns-Paiute Tribe

Adams runs the environmental program for his tribe and is visiting, but will soon be a delegate as the Burns-Paiute Tribe is joining TSWAN. He reports that their small size as a tribe and the fact that they are physically located so far from any recycling stations makes recycling unfeasible at this time. However, they would like to get some small bins for their members to start using for recycling collection and are planning some educational outreach.

Sheena Kaas – Squaxin Island Tribe

Kaas and Bridget Ray were guests at the meeting, but said the Squaxin Island Tribe is in the process of joining TSWAN. They are very interested in green energy and in saving money by setting up their own tribal solid waste program.

Steve Pendleton – Makah Nation

Pendleton said they are kicking off their recycling program with a dinner on December 2nd are very excited about the public outreach they have been doing. They have been giving talks at the schools; have put out many posters on recycling; and have a coloring book story for the children to participate in. They had drawings for some of the sample gift bags they will be giving out to members at the dinner. These included the nice carrying bag, mugs, a pen, a refrigerator magnet with what is recyclable listed on it and lapel pins. All share a recycling logo designed by one of their local high school students which features a native figure placing items in a bin, with the label, "Think Before You Toss!"

Pendleton also reports they are 35-40% completed with the USDA grant they have and are moving forward through the regulation requirements. They have secured some dump closure funds and are working on that simultaneously. The US Air Force has been operating on the reservation for at least 20 years and has created some waste issues.

Derald Ortloff – Yakama Nation

The Yakama received a USDA grant and are doing an alternative study through Roldolfi (consultants). They want a transfer station or perhaps a landfill which can then be self-funded. The next six months should determine which will be chosen. Some tribal members still feel they shouldn't have to pay, but a survey showed 78% felt they were willing to pay for curb side service.

They are dealing with about 100 illegal dump sites from the migrant workers who use certain areas. They have hired a community outreach person who is distributing flyers. They find the school outreach to be harder and would also like to do a childhood outreach.

David Ernst – Spokane Tribe

Ernst says they have closed the West End dump site with funding from IHS, but are just hauling the items from there to the Wellpinit site. He said they are still facing the same issues at Wellpinit with open dumping.

At this point in the meeting, Michael Snowden presented the TSWAN video that he is currently working on so he could get some feedback from the members present. He has a 30 second promo video for the website and the 4-5 minutes recruiting video partially done. He said he also needed more testimonials and ask that anyone present please let him know if they were willing to be in one. And, he would like ‘time lapse’ photos of any projects people might have showing before and after shots of places. He said anyone wishing to submit photos of TSWAN events could do so at: snowden.mk@gmail.com.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm for the day.

Thursday, November 18, 2010; Tribal Caucus

ATTENDANCE: Danny Joe Stensgar, Pete Palmer, Joaquin Bustamante, Don Hurst, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Lewis Younger, *Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*; Alexander Panamaroff, *Larsen Bay*; Hans Apokedak, *Levelock Village*; Steve Pendleton, Marge Sawyer, *Makah Nation*; Eddy Chu, *Muckleshoot Tribe*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Angie Christiansen, *Old Harbor*; Virginia Monsisco, *Shoshone-Bannock*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Derald Ortloff, *Yakama Nation*; Kami Snowden, TSWAN.

The meeting came to order at 9:00 am. Before beginning caucus the remainder of the group provided their tribal updates.

Virginia Monsisco – Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Monsisco stated that the tribal environmental department has taken over solid waste, along with other programs, and that they are, for all intents, starting over. They are currently making application for a recycling grant.

Alex Panamaroff - Larsen Bay

Recent elections resulted in a new mayor for the city who is looking forward to cooperatively working with the tribe where environmental issues are concerned through a continued Memorandum of Understanding between the two.

The tribe recently completed a study on an old school and discovered there are contaminants and hazardous materials that qualify the site as a Brownfield. After cleanup they would like to use the site as a community garden.

They are also in the process of converting a conex box to use as a reuse/recycle station for household hazardous waste so these wastes do not make it to the burn box. Panamaroff stated they need more hazardous waste training as well.

The tribe's recycling currently is shipped out on barges, but the charges to do so are a huge cost burden. They continue to look for vendors willing to backhaul, preferably without any charge.

Angie Christiansen – Old Harbor

Christiansen reported they received a Rural CAP grant to clean junk vehicles. They also just recently completed building a new dock and the contractor agreed to backhaul the vehicles free of charge. The tribe can now use the remainder of those funds to start a pilot project.

Due to a bear problem, they are fencing the dumpsite and also purchasing portable electric fences to loan to community members to keep bear and other animals out of spaces where they may be drying fish or hanging meat. As part of this process they are building a bear education kit and also developing a forum for tribal elders to tell stories of bear to the community and especially youth.

Hans Apokedak – Levelock Village

Apokedak reported that they also using a conex for batteries and other burn-box prohibited items to keep them dry and out of the weather elements. They are also in the process of hiring a youth coordinator with work with the local youth on environmental education.

Pete Palmer – Colville Confederated Tribes

Palmer reported on a visit from EPA as they try to control dump fires. EPA aided the tribe with a compliance assistance plan, but if compliance cannot be reached, they will begin to enforce and sanction the tribe for noncompliance. SparrowHawk Consulting completed a cost analysis for the transfer stations, but the tribe cannot implement without an interim plan of action.

The car crushing project stalled out as people were getting upset at their cars being over edict. The car crusher was subsequently vandalized. The community of Keller completed a cleanup on their own.

Joaquin Bustamante, speaking to the recycling operations, stated they need scales to be able to document all the recycling weights. He also stated they're in need of more storage for e-waste collection. They will take all e-waste from the community, but any computers used by the tribe must first go through their IT department so the hard drives are scrubbed clean. Bustamante is also hopeful of receiving some training in e-waste on breaking down the components for the most benefit financially (extracting ferrous materials, e.g.). They continue to provide tours to the tribal council members, educate the public and deliver educational materials. Also, Okanogan County SWAC has agreed to place a recycling bin on the reservation.

Don Hurst stated the tribe has conducted HHW collection events the last couple of years so most of the quantities that had been stored over the years has been collected and disposed of. However, the need for HHW collection remains so they are investigating the construction of an HHW facility.

Hurst also reported that the Colville Confederated Tribes were the only tribal entity nationally to be awarded a planning grant. This grant has 4 elements:

1. Engineering work for the recycling system expansion and relocate the Nespelem transfer station.
2. Engineering for an alternate cover for the Nespelem site that proposes using crushed concrete from construction debris.
3. There was a PCP spill in 1982 on the reservation. The contaminated soil has been moved offsite, but they want to cap and contain the original site.
4. The last part of this workplan requires public participation so the tribe will use different media for education.

Cindy Spiry – Snoqualmie Nation

Spiry reported they held a HHW collection event on October 23, which turned into more of a recycling event. They collected 2 semi-trucks of e-waste, white goods, batteries, etc. For this event they didn't take any liquid waste. The high school Green Team took responsibility for all the promotion of the event.

Spiry also requested information from members regarding a code enforcement program as they have none in place now.

The following updates were sent via email by members unable to attend the meeting:

Tom Gibbons – Quinault Indian Nation

"The QIN has resumed work in late October at identifying and in November cleaning up illegal solid waste dumpsites on the Quinault Indian Nation. Illegal dumping has been identified to occur at about 25 sites across the Quinault Indian Reservation. Most dumping activities occur closely to main transportation rounds (Highways 101 and 109) and villages on the reservation (Taholah, Amanda Park, and Queets). It is apparent that illegal dumping occurs from both tribal and non-tribal (off reservation sources) typically one truck load and one abandoned junk car at a time. The rate of dumping, however, seems to be at a level where through existing IGAP funds that we could allow two to three years to pass between major illegal cleanup efforts.

We are also writing an article that discusses illegal solid dumping observed on the reservation that will be published in the QIN's monthly paper in December (Nugguam). We will also hold two community outreach meetings (One in Queets and one in Taholah) in December to solicit ideas from tribal members how to reduce dumping and any solid waste management/removal activities they would like to suggest we consider undertaking to help with solid waste management and legal disposal from the reservation.

Sorry I cannot come to the meeting; I am way overdue on getting EPA an updated Section 319 Nonpoint plan; they must have this by Thanksgiving if we are to apply for 2012 Section 319 grant funds (solicitations in December 2010 and January 2011). This, unfortunately, is one of many overlooked tasks that I inherited that must be taken care of so we can move forward and start being able to be more regular attendees at TSWAN.

Clair Wood – Siletz Tribe

“The Siletz Tribe does not have their own transfer station, landfill, or recycling center, but are working with the local disposal company (Dahl Disposal) to reduce waste generated and improve recycling in the tribal administration buildings and from the homes of tribal members.

We have been working with the BPA and local utility companies to give away and install compact fluorescent bulbs in tribal member homes. Bulbs are free and installed by tribal employees. Old ones are properly disposed.

We are working with the local disposal company and the local school to teach a class called Waste, Water, Watt. We have completed the portion that teaches the youth about waste, what it is, how to reduce it, how and what can be recycled. We are starting on the section that teaches them about electricity and how to reduce the use of it in school and at home.

We have set up four compost bins near the various tribal administration buildings. We have a worm composting bin near our offices. They have been well received.

We are promoting the use of compostable and biodegradable paper goods. We are encouraging people to switch from Styrofoam and disposable water bottles towards more durable goods.

We partnered with the county solid waste district to collect shoes for Soles4Souls.”

Liana Charley-John – Cheesh’na Tribal Council.

“Liana Charley-John with Cheesh’na Tribal Council attended the TSWAN Solid Waste 101 Training, worked with other local tribes to put on the Youth Environmental Summit, and attended several conferences including the EPA Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit. Cheesh’na is currently assisting with the coordination of a residential electronics recycling event that will reach nine communities in the Copper River area. The tribal sponsors will handle the costs of backhauling and recycling the materials through Total Reclaim in Anchorage. We have been approved for IGAP funding for FY 11 & 12 as well as a special project. With this special project funding, Cheesh’na will be hosting a SEARCH Conference to include interested organizations throughout the Copper River Watershed. This will hopefully result in the formation of a watershed authority that will address issues related to the environment and subsistence.”

Having provided copies of proposed policies at the previous meeting, Snowden presented the group with Resolutions for adoption of those policies.

In the matter of the Policy for Conflict Resolution, David Ernst moved to approve the resolution. Pete Palmer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

In the matter of the Conflict of Interest Policy, Pete Palmer moved to approve the resolution. Derald Ortloff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

In the matter of the Confidentiality Policy, Pete Palmer moved to approve the resolution. John Wheaton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Snowden discussed items planned for FY 2012 IGAP. There was unanimous agreement to proceed with those planned. If there are additional ideas or suggestions, please contact Snowden by December 10, as the workplan and proposed budget will be submitted to EPA by December 17.

Snowden will contact the Chehalis Tribe about possibly hosting the next meeting. Although there had been discussion about the Umatilla Tribe hosting in the spring, if we are intending to help and provide training for a household hazardous waste collection event, it will require more planning time.

Having no further official business to come before the organization the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

